

Frankford Arsenal, Building 221
Northeast corner of Mellon Street and Farley Road
Philadelphia
Philadelphia County
Pennsylvania

HAER No. PA-74X

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
Mid-Atlantic Regional Office
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Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

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Frankford Arsenal, Building 221

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Location: Northeast corner of Mellon Street and Farley Road
Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania

Quad: Frankford

Date of Construction: 1939

Significance: Constructed as a small arms ammunition shop in 1937-1939, Building 221 is associated with the continued growth of Frankford Arsenal during the twentieth century.

Historian: Patrick W. O'Bannon
Principal Historian
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HISTORY

The east portion of Building 221 was constructed by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) between 1937 and 1939 as a small arms ammunition shop for loading .30-caliber blank cartridges. In 1943, the building was converted into a men's locker room. The adjacent cooling tower was constructed in 1946 and, in 1947, the building was converted into an air conditioning compressor house. The building became the arsenal's central air conditioning plant in 1969.

DESCRIPTION

Building 221 is comprised of two basic elements. The east building, constructed in 1937-1939 as a small arms ammunition shop, is a single-story brick building with a concrete foundation, measuring approximately 28 feet by 38 feet. It has a gabled slate roof with two ventilators located along the ridge line. An enclosed wooden bridge (1939) on the east facade connects to Building 220. A garage-type door and a concrete loading platform are located on the north facade of the building. The interior consists of four rooms separated by brick walls.

The west structure is an air conditioning cooling tower, constructed in 1946. This structure, which measures approximately 71 feet by 27 feet, consists of exposed air conditioning equipment atop a concrete platform.

SOURCE

John Milner Associates, "Historical and Archeological Survey of Frankford Arsenal" (West Chester, PA: John Milner Associates, 1979).

Report prepared for the Department of the Army, Baltimore District, Corps of Engineers, Baltimore, Maryland. Copies on file at Historical Society of Pennsylvania, the Philadelphia Free Library, and the Philadelphia Historical Commission

